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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/766,949	01/22/2001	Daniel B. Workman	OID06-36(07601)	3380

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EXAMINER

BASEHOAR, ADAM L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

APR

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/766,949	Applicant(s) WORKMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Adam L. Basehoar	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/11/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-31 and 41-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-31 and 41-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: The RCE filed 10/11/07.
2. The rejection of claims 1-13, 15-31, and 41-50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman et al (5,909,678 06/01/99) in view of Horowitz et al (US-6,122,647 09-2000) has been withdrawn as necessitated by Amendment.
3. Claims 1-13, 15-31, and 41-50 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 11, 13, and 41 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
5. Claims 13, 23-31, and 41-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In regard to claims 13 and 23-31 the computer usable medium could be communication/transmission medium for carrying data signals (Specification: Paragraph 32). Thus claims 13 and 23-31 are rejected under 101 for failing to fall within a statutory category and for failing to be structurally and functionally interconnected with the software in such a manner to, in and of itself, enable usefulness to be realized. The Examiner suggests the claims be amended, "comprising a computer readable memory device," instead of "computer usable medium." In regard to claims 41-50, the system means could be merely software (Note: Entire Specification). The computer system must be

claimed in combination with an appropriate hardware element in order for functionality to be realized. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-13, 15-31, and 41-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman et al (5,909,678 06/01/99) in view of Kurowski et al (US-2002/0019844 02/14/02) in further view Nunez (US-6,654,737 11/25/03) in further view of the W3C, HTML 4.01 Specification, Chapter 12, "Links", pp. 1-15, 12/24/99 (Hereafter: W3C).

-In regard to independent claims 1, 11, 13, and 41 Bergman et al teach a method, system, and product for editing a form, wherein;

a user was displayed an interface (Fig. 9: 911) displaying a phrase receptacle (Fig. 2: 210) for an element in the form (column 3, lines 6-18) (Fig. 4: 200) indicating to a user that a control is available for the element (column 3, lines 6-28, 46-49, 57-67; column 4, lines 1-9), said phrase receptacle providing one of a group consisting of a link from the form to another location and a link from the form to another file (column 7, lines 31-44: i.e. selecting a given phrase receptacle enforces semantic constraints that link to the appropriate phrase and objects in the different menu boxes); wherein

upon selection of the phrase receptacle of the element, presenting the control displayed on the user interface for user interaction (column 7, lines 31-44)(Fig. 3: Selection of element 200 displays highlighted menu control 11 for user interaction); and wherein

upon completion of user interaction with the control, replacing the element with a new element responsive to user (column 7, lines 50-56: "user has dragged and dropped the object...from the object menu 11 into box 210")(Fig. 2: Select element 210 and Fig 3: Replace element with new element 210 selected from control 11).

Bergman et al do not teach wherein the phrase receptacle (Fig. 2: 210) was a hyperlink to the object menu (Fig. 2: 11). Kurowski et al teach wherein activating hyperlinks generates menu views, wherein a user could then make a plurality of selections from the generated menu based on which hyperlink the user selected (Paragraph 184: "page may include hyperlinks that activate things....activate...menu...include...options"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the clickable/selectable phrase receptacles of Bergman which associated with a plurality of menus to have activated those menus via a hyperlink in the phrase receptacle as taught in Kurowski et al, because Nunez taught that hyperlinks supplied the notoriously well known benefits of providing a computer assisted way for a human user to efficiently jump between various locations containing information which is somehow related (column 2, lines 10-17: "efficiently jump"). This hyperlink efficiency would have enhanced the query interface of Bergman et al which was concerned with making the interface as easy to use and flexible as possible (column 2, lines 43-50).

Neither Bergman et al, Kurowski et al, nor Nunez specifically teach wherein the hyperlink included a hyperlink target in the form of URL and wherein the another location or file

was identified by the URL in the hyperlink target. W3C teaches wherein the basic hyperlink construct connects from one resource to another, wherein the hyperlink has two ends (Page 1: Section 12.1: "Introduction to links and anchors"). W3C further teaches wherein the hyperlink starts at a source and points to a destination which may be any resource (image, program, video, document, an element within a document, etc), wherein the hyperlink target includes a URL that specifies the address of the destination anchor (Page 2: Section 12.1.1: "Visiting a linked resource"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the hyperlink targeting the generated menu resource to have included a URL of said destination target (i.e. the menu) as shown in W3C, because W3C taught that it was notoriously well known in the art at the time of the invention for hyperlinks to contain URLs identifying the address of target resources so that a user selecting said hyperlink could easily jump to or activate said resource (Pages 1 & 2: "basic hypertext construct").

-In regard to dependent claims 2-3, 15-16, 23-24, and 42-43, Bergman et al teach wherein the form was a database query (column 5, lines 27-36) or spreadsheet (equivalent to a database) (column 5, lines 22-26).

-In regard to dependent claims 4-5, 17-18, 25-26, and 44-45, Bergman et al teach wherein the element was part of a formula or calculation (column 3, lines 9-10)(column 14, lines 25-30).

-In regard to dependent claims 6-7, 19-20, 27-28, and 46-47, Bergman et al teach wherein the control was a list of choices or a pull-down menu (column 8, lines 5-8)(Fig. 3&4).

-In regard to dependent claims 8-9, 21-22, 29-30, and 48-49, Bergman et al wherein the control was a dialog box or text entry field (column 8, lines 6-8).

-In regard to dependent claims 10, 12, 31, and 50, Bergman et al further teach wherein the control was selected from a group of controls consisting of a list (Fig. 3), a dialog box, and a text entry field (column 8, lines 5-8).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 11, 13, and 41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please note the additionally cited prior art on the accompanying PTO-892 form.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam L. Basehoar whose telephone number is (571)-272-4121. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:00am - 4:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
09/766,949
Art Unit: 2178

Page 7.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Adam L. Basehoar



01/07/08